

State Senator

Michelle McManus

35th District

Michelle A. McManus (R, Lake Leelanau) was elected to the Michigan State Senate in November of 2002. Senator McManus represents the second largest geographical district, the 35th State Senate district, which includes: Benzie, Clare, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mecosta, Missaukee, Osceola, Roscommon, and Wexford counties in lower northwest Michigan.

The Senator serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and chairs the Appropriation Subcommittees for the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality, and serves as Vice-Chair for the General Government and History, Arts, and Libraries subcommittees. She also sits on the Senate Finance and Senate Commerce and Labor Committees.

In 2003, she spearheaded the fight against partial birth abortions in Michigan. As the sponsor of Senate Bill 395, Senator McManus began the struggle to pass the Legal Birth Definition Act which sought to define the moment at which a person is considered “born” and therefore eligible for the full protection of the law. Through this definition, partial birth abortions would be banned except in rare cases where the physical health or life of the mother is threatened by delivery. After the bill was vetoed by Governor Granholm, the Senator joined with Right to Life Michigan, and through a citizen imitative resoundingly overturned the Governor’s veto with more than half a million signatures.

Under a bill sponsored by the Senator in 2004, hazing in Michigan was finally made illegal. The anti-hazing laws not only criminalize hazing but help ensure that the offenders are brought to justice.

Senator McManus is also Co-Chair of the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus which is dedicated to promoting the outdoors through education and conservation. She organized the printing of the first ever Michigan Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus Wild Game Cookbook, the sales of which are being donated to the Michigan Sportsmen Foundation Against Hunger.

Before taking office, Senator McManus previously served as the Director of Governor Engler’s Northern Office and as a three term State Representative for the 104th District. Senator McManus and her husband Keith Nelson live in Lake Leelanau with their two daughters. She attended Traverse City Public Schools and earned her B.S. in political science from Central Michigan University. She is an avid sportsman who enjoys a wide variety of outdoor activities and is an active member in her community.